

9-1-2008

NJIT Libraries Annual Report FY2007-2008

NJIT Libraries

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**DEAR COLLEAGUES, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS
OF THE NJIT LIBRARIES:**



It has been my pleasure to serve you as University Librarian since July, 1995. It has been another challenging year because our book, database and journal subscription prices have increased while our library materials budget has remained static. In addition,

the NJ State Library through NJKI was no longer able to fund the Nature journals and the Wiley journals, a valuable set of science and technology resources. We continued our expanded library hours until 2:45am on the weeks before exams and they remain popular with our students. Reciprocal borrowing as improved and now our undergraduate students can now take out loans from other participating NJ academic libraries just like our graduate students and faculty. Please check for details on how this works. (see below).

There is a new search box, "Ask the Library" on our library home page that allows anyone to ask questions and get quick, accurate responses from a natural language knowledgebase (IntelliResponse). If a student asks a question where no answer has been prepared, one of our librarians adds the correct answer for the next time that someone asks that question. NJIT may be the only academic library in New Jersey with such a powerful tool. Please help me welcome aboard Andrea Spender, our new Reference Librarian, and Aron Nemeth our new Library Assistant.

There has been a significant development of an open source library system plan funded by the Mellon foundation called the Open Library Environment with many universities. While this system will not be available until 2013 or even later, it promises to be revolutionary in the services that it can make available to academic libraries. We will talk more about this in future years as the software is built and tested and the systems are installed in New Jersey.

I welcome your comments and feedback at sweeney@njit.edu.

Richard Sweeney
NJIT University Librarian

NJKI DATABASES FUNDING REDUCED

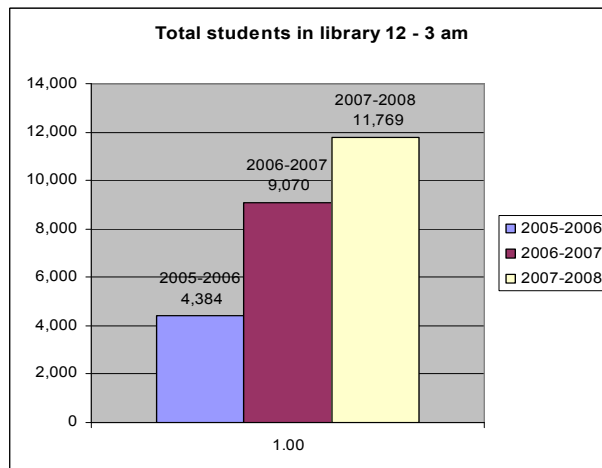
NJKI (New Jersey Knowledge Initiative) provides funding for valuable information resources in NJ libraries. After a long period of uncertainty concerning continued State funding for the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative program, the final state budget for FY2009 was signed by Governor Corzine, and the New Jersey Knowledge Initiative was kept at the FY2008 \$2 million level. While this amount does not equal the funding of the original NJKI project (\$3 million) the library will continue to have access to Academic Search Premier, **and** Business Source Premier. In addition, the library has chosen to subscribe to Wiley journals and some of the Nature journals that were formerly state-funded. The others were lost.

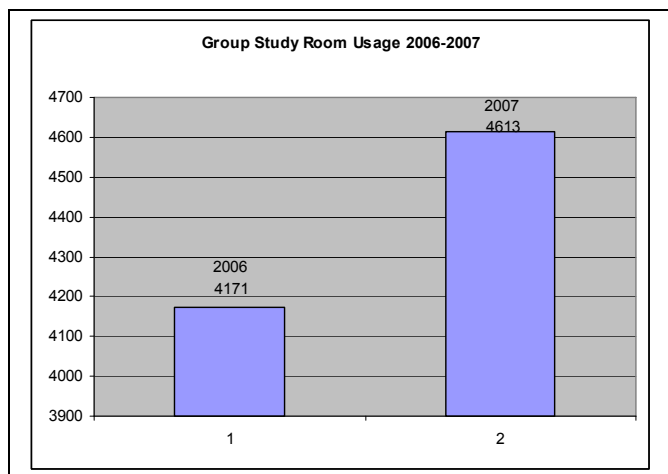
Knowledge Initiative (NJKI).

See <http://www.njki.org> for more information.

INCREASED LIBRARY HOURS FY 2007-2008

With continuous increases in electronic resources and remote access to the NJIT community, library statistics show a continuing trend towards less circulation of hard copy books, but more usage of the library. Late night hours (open to 2:45am during final exams) continued at the same level as last year, with more students using the library between the hours of 12 midnight and 3am.





Student requests for use of group study rooms continued to grow. Many students prefer to study in groups, either gathered around a study table or in one of the library's 11 group study rooms.

EXPANDED RECIPROCAL BORROWING THROUGH VALE

NJIT undergraduate and graduate students and faculty are all now eligible for borrowing books from selected other NJ academic libraries under VALE reciprocal borrowing agreements. As a member of VALE, the Virtual Academic Library Environment, the NJIT library has continued to expand easy access to other academic libraries. Only a quick stop at the library for the appropriate form is needed. Different VALE institutions participate in the undergraduate, graduate and faculty access programs so you. Please go to <http://www.valenj.org/newvale/recbor/> to learn more about this important program and where in NJ academic libraries you would be able to get borrowing privileges. Graduate students have access to 34 New Jersey colleges and university libraries. As of July 1, 2008 a new program began for undergraduate students, allowing borrowing privileges at 20 academic libraries.

VIRTUAL ACADEMIC LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT: THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES: OPEN INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM

Ann Hoang, Assistant University Librarian continues her work investigating a new model in library systems. Ann participated in an Institute of Museum and Library

services (IMLS) planning grant to The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) on behalf of the VALE Consortium. The participants examined the various options for open source library systems, installed Evergreen and tested its applications. Ann's involvement included planning of the **"Next Generation Academic Library Systems Symposium"** held on March 12, 2008 at TCNJ. The symposium featured expert speakers on the challenges and changes within current integrated library systems and the administrative and organizational infrastructure that would be needed to implement a single-shared open library system. The symposium was well received with over 125 registered attendees.

View <http://www.valenj.org/newvale/ols/symposium2008/program-schedule.shtml> for additional information.

At the conclusion of the symposium and at the June 3rd VALE Open Library Systems Taskforce meeting, the members concluded that the existing open library automation systems Evergreen and KohaZoom, although they meet the preliminary requirements, did not offer the much needed software to support a state-wide plan for an open source library system for academic libraries in New Jersey. A broader array of participant institutions is needed to develop a more comprehensive system that incorporates current and new applications. A promising new project is the Duke-Mellon initiative, called OLE (Open Library Environment). Rutgers was invited as a member of the advisory partners in the Duke-Mellon Initiative. Rutgers invited a few members of the VALE Open Library Systems Taskforce to work with them throughout this project because of the close working relationship between Rutgers and the other academic libraries in New Jersey.

OPEN LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

With support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Duke University will lead the library community in designing a next-generation automation system dubbed the Open Library Environment (OLE) Project. The OLE project (<http://oleprojects.org>) design will be built using the service oriented architecture (SOA) concept where the goal is to achieve loose coupling among interacting software agents. The end product will be a blueprint design document completed by July 2009 to inform open source library system development efforts, to guide future library system implementations, and to influence current integrated library system vendor projects.

REFERENCE AND LIAISON SERVICES

Information Literacy

Library Instruction

Information literacy and library instruction continued to play a primary role in the activities of the reference librarians. Librarians increased the number of sessions taught as well as the number of collaborations with faculty. We continued a strong collaboration in lower division with GUR course instructors through liaison with the Humanities and Engineering departments. Upper division instruction received more attention from liaison librarians than in the past with additional sessions aimed at graduate students, such as EndNote training. Many innovative sessions were designed by our librarians in collaboration with their departmental faculty. For example, one librarian developed a creative, millennial-focused learning component for which students were assigned to write a Wikipedia article and document their sources.

ICT Committee

The ICT Committee (Information, Communication, and Technology Literacy Task Force) continued to be chaired by the Director of Reference and attended by faculty and librarians. Their major accomplishment was a detailed analysis of syllabi in each discipline. The conclusions reached enabled liaison librarians and faculty to target new areas of collaboration to fill those gaps and raised awareness of our instructional services. In March 2008, the ICT Committee requested an investigation of the feasibility of repeating the assessment study (Portfolio + ETS) in the Fall of 2008 or Spring 2009. The portfolio assessment was deemed feasible and will be repeated in Fall 2008. However, the cost, logistics, and adequacy of research design make it unlikely that the iSkills testing will be done in 2008-2009.

A secondary outcome of the committee meetings was the consensus that information literacy is best taught by having it embedded in subject-oriented coursework. Therefore, after researching other institutional models, the instructional program will be embedded as part of the GUR HUM101 course. In Fall 2008, every freshman enrolled in the freshman composition course will be required to take the series of three Research Roadmaps workshops for 10% of their course grade. These will be run by the reference librarians and students will sign up independent of class time.

Self Instruction and Online Research HelpDesk Improvements

During the summer of 2007, the reference staff reviewed our web content, edited, and moved the online Research HelpDesk to the new University website, learning and using SiteStudio. Reference librarians created, reviewed, selected, and added many instructional links to the website for self-service instruction and advocated their use to students and faculty via instructional sessions and the website.

SearchPath online library instruction modules were revised for the new website under Site Studio, so that faculty could use it in their instruction and students can use it on their own.

<http://library.njit.edu/researchhelpdesk/howto/searchpath/index.htm>

Liaison Program

One major change in the liaison program was the addition of a new reference librarian, Andrea Spender who replaced Jackie Buurma. Andrea joined as our new Reference Librarian and Liaison for the Math, Physics and Biological Science Departments and the School of Management.

Promotion & Tenure Support: The library liaisons continued to support the Promotion and Tenure committee through their cited reference reports on candidates and through their participation in the information seminars for faculty on the subject. These reports seek to provide one measure of the scholarly use of the work of NJIT faculty by reporting the results of cited reference searches on Web of Science and SCOPUS.

New Initiatives from Reference

Ask the Library

Technical Reference Librarian Haymwantee Singh programmed and launched a natural language knowledgebase product, powered by **Intelliresponse** to answer ready reference questions. This solution provides a 24/7 self-service experience that makes it easy for website visitors to type in a question in natural language and get one right answer. Just check the main library homepage for the "Have a question?" search box. The knowledgebase can be updated every time a user asks a new but important question.

Statistics from the system show it is quite healthy and regularly saving staff time by handling routine directional queries. This program is commonly used for computing helpdesk support, but ours is an innovative and unique implementation for library support.

Top Questions asked of Ask the Library:

1. [What is the code of conduct?](#)
2. [How do I cite my sources?](#)
3. [What are the library hours?](#)
4. [Where can I find information on workshops and instruction?](#)
5. [How do I find a book?](#)
6. [Can I access the library resources remotely and on campus?](#)
7. [Where can I find my professor's course reserves?](#)
8. [How do I find articles on my topic?](#)
9. [How do I find a specific handbook or encyclopedia, etc?](#)
10. [What are reserves?](#)

New Academic Programs

The reference librarians researched information resources likely to be needed in support of the many new programs proposed 2008-2009 and beyond. This work culminated in written reports including specific sources and budget recommendations. In support of this effort, the reference department prepared and proposed a creative advocacy budget that included a document and spreadsheet benchmarking the NJIT library against peer institutions. This report was embedded in other presentations and circulated to a variety of stakeholders on campus during the spring semester.

Electronic Reserves

Recognizing a customer need, the library initiated a project to put the reserves online. Feasibility testing included using a public wiki, setting up some test courses in Spring 2008 and getting feedback from faculty. Following a successful test, library managers worked together to enhance the library reserves program by taking it online. This will be fully implemented for all faculty using the Van Houten library in Fall 2008. It should lead to what will be a significant upgrade in service by putting course reserves online for all students. Circulation staff was trained to scan items and enter data into the wiki. See the wiki at njitlibraryreserves.pbwiki.com

E-Books at NJIT

Several hundred e-books were added to the collection. Some have been selected from publicly available materials and cataloged by Librarian Bruce Slutsky and provide a good enhancement to the library portal. Others were purchased from our only e-book vendor, EBL (Ebook Library) electronic book database that provides brief, browsable access to

over 50,000 books online. Electronic books are in demand at NJIT but the e-book pricing models available in the marketplace make purchasing them from a variety of vendors impossible given our constraints. We hope to address this issue in 2008-2009. E-books continue to grow in popularity. Here are a few examples of recent e-book purchases:



[Machining Technology : Machine Tools and Operations](#)
by Youssef, Taylor & Francis, 2008.



[Business Value of IT : Managing Risks, Optimizing Performance and Measuring Results](#)
By Michael D.S. Harris, Taylor & Francis, 2008.

Collaboration with IST

Reference librarians recognized the need for a bibliographic citation manager and worked with Academic computing to collaborate on researching, testing, and selecting Endnote and subsequently learning and training others to use it. In addition the service delivery model for Turn-it-in.com and Endnote were changed, utilizing the best skills of two departments by collaborating. IST Computing Helpdesk handles technical issues, logins, etc, and Reference handles content related knowledge and training.

Goals for 2008-2009

One of the major goals of the Reference Dept in 2008-2009 will be the implementation of the library sponsored course workshops, Research Roadmaps series, for all HUM101 students. In conjunction with our information literacy mission, the library instructional curriculum will be further developed seeking to more systematically address upper division students. It is hoped that an online companion to the foundational library workshops can be implemented through Moodle. We also hope to build on our previous work in information literacy assessment.

LIBRARY RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

In FY 2007-2008, NJIT was the beneficiary of 20,170 journal subscription titles that were accessible to our students and faculty but were paid by some other agency. The New Jersey Knowledge Initiative, funded by the State of New Jersey through the New Jersey State Library, accounted for most of those titles. This meant that NJIT faculty and students had online access to 51,826 journal titles including 31,656 directly paid by NJIT. Faculty and staff usage continued to increase with these journal titles.

See: <http://www.valenlj.org/newvale/spotlight/njki-academic-library-staff.pdf>

See <http://library.njit.edu/databases> for the complete list of subscribed databases

See <http://library.njit.edu/journals> to see if a specific title is available

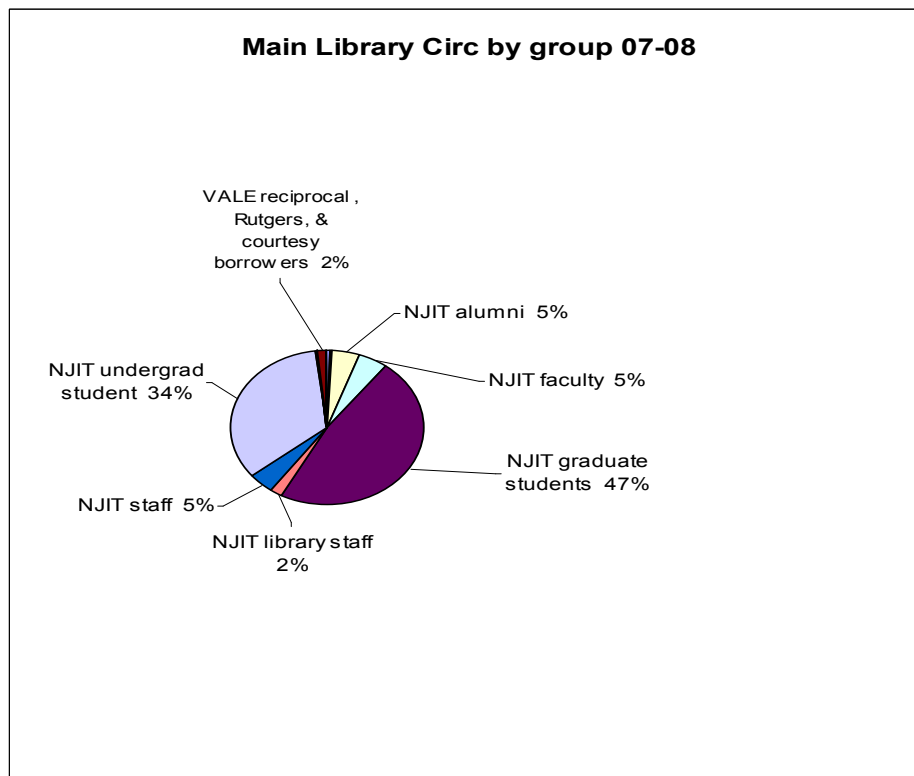
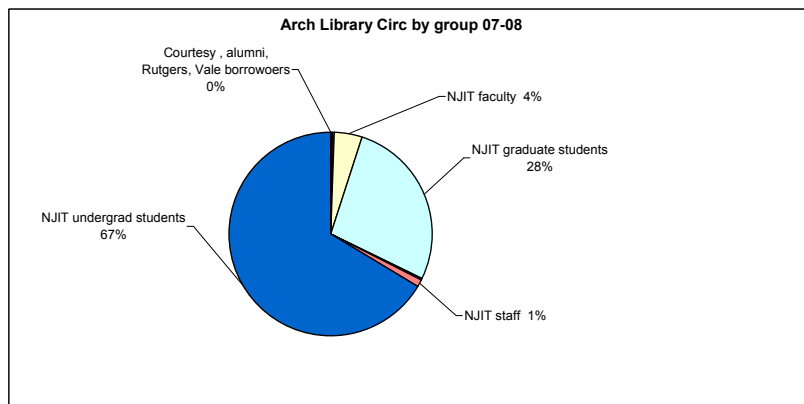
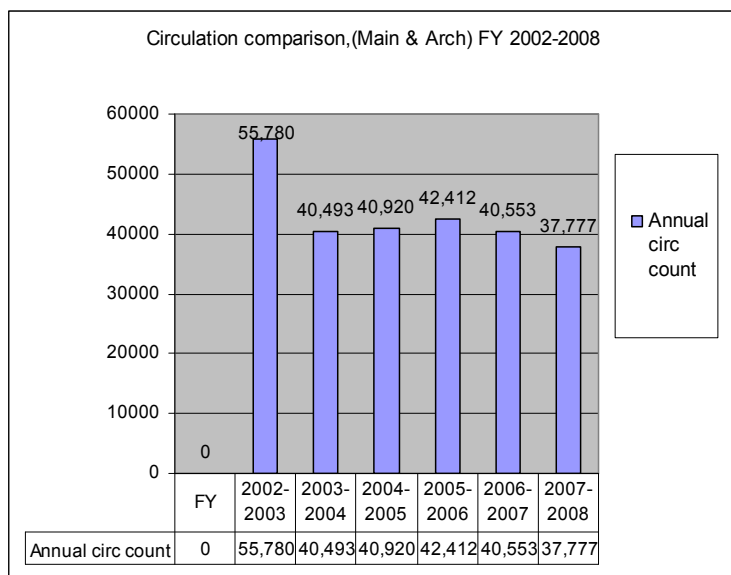
Journal Table

	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006	FY 2006-2007	FY 2007-2008
Journal titles purchased in online databases	13,482	19,541	20,705	21,703	31,656
Journal titles accessible not-purchased			14,658	15,448	20,170
Total individual journal subscriptions	424	410	455	507	507
Individual print only journals	195 (16 packages)	100 (14 packages)	161	161	161
Individual e-journals only	134 (6 packages)	197	223	240	240
Both print & e-journals	95 (11 package)		71	68	68
Online bibliographic indexes	10	7	7	7	7
Online full text databases	7	11	19	20	21
Databases aimed for nationally prominent programs	NA	5	5	5	5

USER ANALYSIS

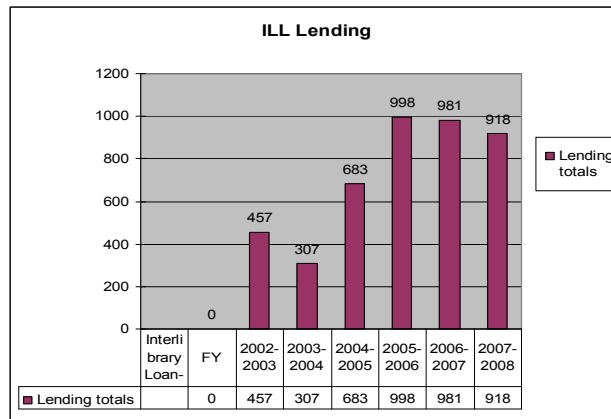
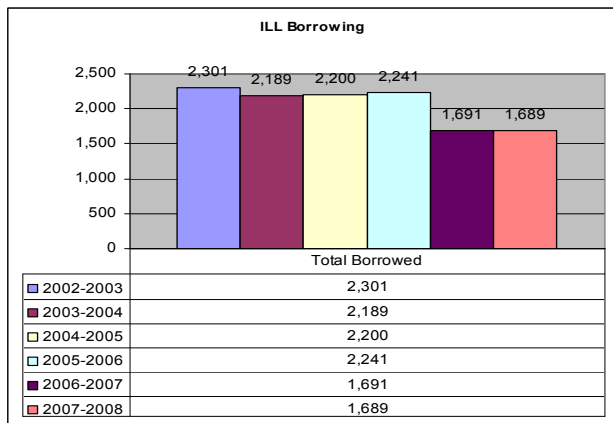
Circulation

The total circulation count for both NJIT libraries was 37,777. Circulation patterns differ between the main and architecture libraries. The main library circulates most print material to graduate students, and the architecture library circulates the larger percentage to undergraduate students, as illustrated by these charts.



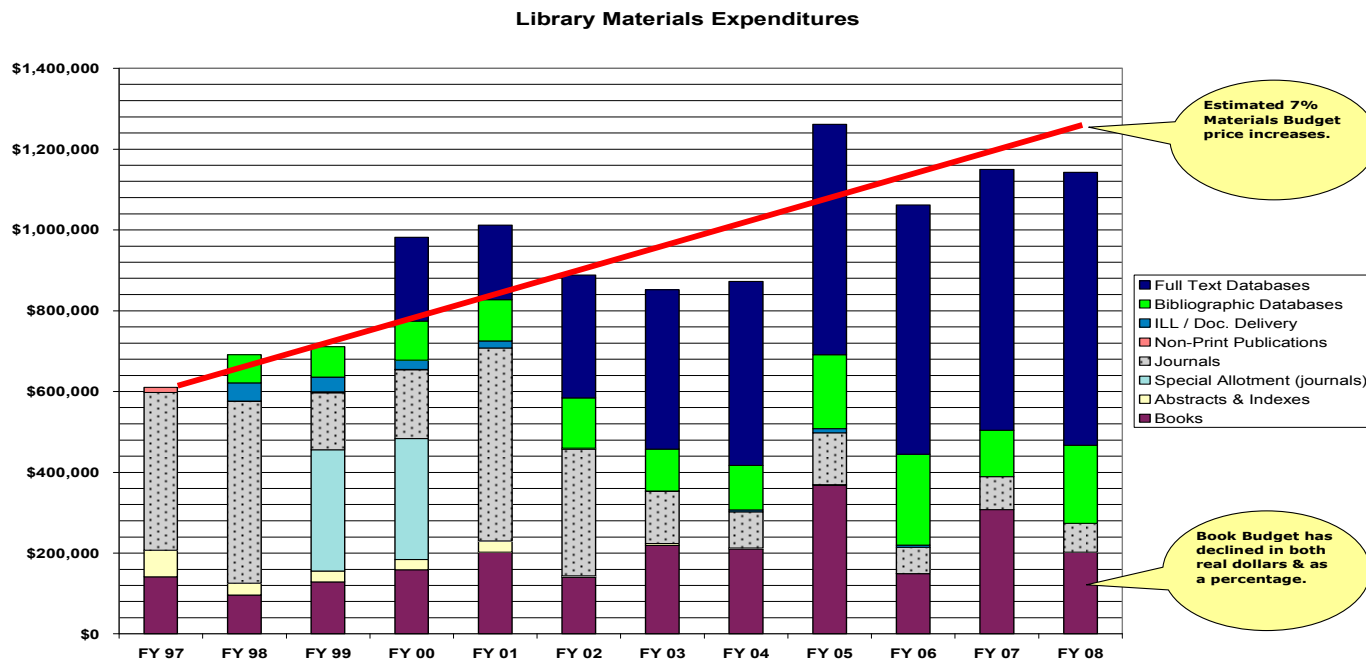
Interlibrary Loan

Student and researchers continue to actively use the library's interlibrary loan services, which supplement the NJIT library's book and journal collections. The following charts show the trend in interlibrary loan usage over the past few years:

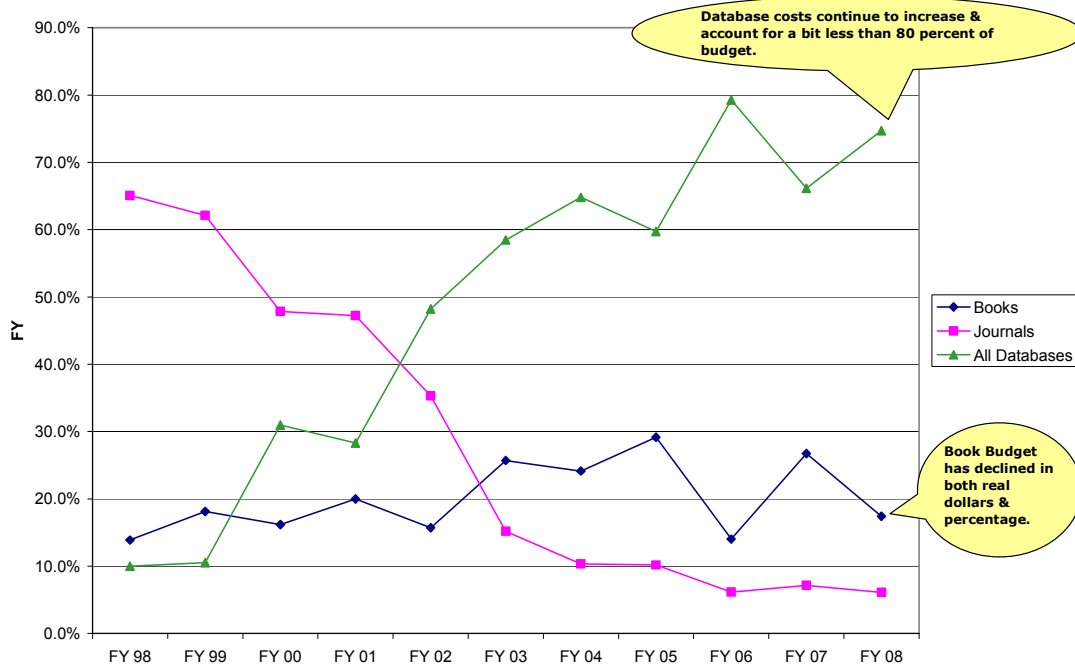


LIBRARY AND MATERIALS EXPENDITURES

Below is a graph presenting the ten-year history of the NJIT library materials expenditures (and encumbrances). The average subscription prices continue to increase about 8.45% per year. See Library Journal's annual periodical price survey. The result is that the NJIT library is able to purchase far fewer titles.



Percentage of Materials Budget (Books, Journals vs. Databases)



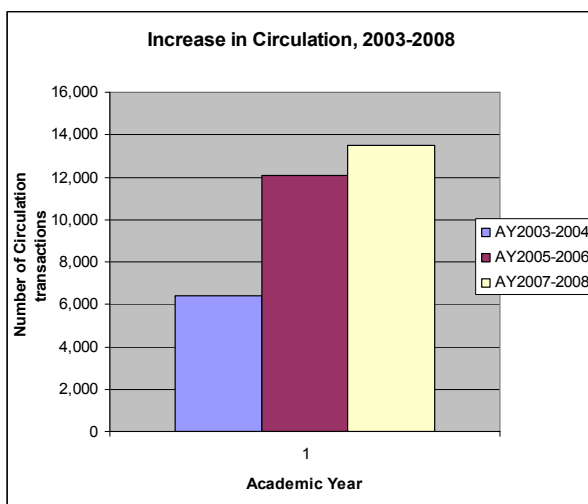
	FY 2003-2004	FY 2004-2005	FY 2005-2006	FY 2006-2007	FY 2007-2008
Hours open in a typical week	91	93 (spring semester) 91(fall semester)	93 (spring semester) 91 (fall semester)	107.5	107.5
User visits to Van Houten library	476,234	403,725	428,274	425,209	405,231
User visits to the Littman Architecture Library	71,742	71,084	72,135* est.	77,450	75,147
General circulation (both libraries)	40,493	40,920	42,412	40,553	37,777
Items borrowed from other libraries	2,189	2,200	2,241	*1,691 *Decrease in number of requests received.	1688
Items lent to other libraries	307	683	998	981	918

LITTMAN ARCHITECTURE LIBRARY

Collections and their usage

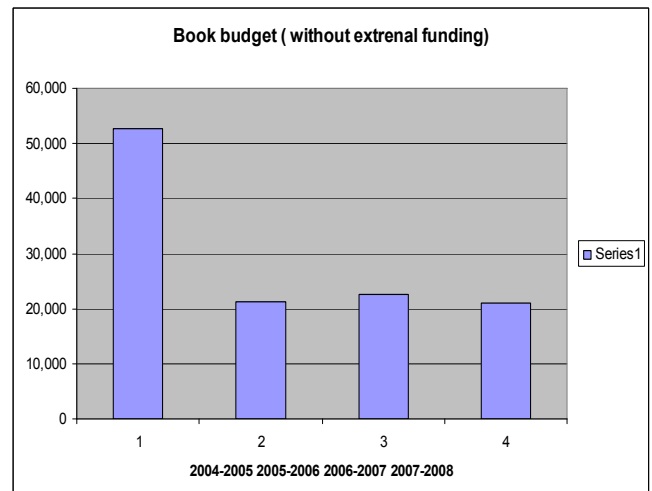
We are among the largest schools of architecture in the country and with the growing number of students it was not unusual for us to have over 800 visits per day during the fall and spring semesters. With the addition of new majors along with increased course offerings we expect an even greater number of patrons. We are also an actively used library.

Our statistics demonstrated that Littman library circulation has been steadily rising, increasing by 119 percent over the past four years.



Almost 37 percent of all university library transactions occurred at the Architecture Library, and 67 percent in areas related to the SOA curriculum. This data not only suggests that the SOA students are among the most active library users but also that information resources critical to their fields of study are still typically available only in print format.

Our statistics also demonstrated that since 2004-2005 (when Architecture was identified as one of the "niche" programs and received additional funds) our book budget has decreased by between 57 and 60 percent.



It has been well established by now that aside from the growing utilization of technology, our field still relies on the use of traditional print resources. The selection of and access to both traditional and non-traditional materials is a challenge as the cost of publishing accelerates. The number of titles in the field of art, design, and architecture is constantly growing. The geographical scope of materials on the market is widening. We purchase books and journals published not only in the U.S. but in many other countries. However, the price of foreign titles is increasing. Overseas publishers and local book dealers have to account for higher fuel costs and the weakened value of the US dollar. Coupled with the library's limited budget, growing prices make collection development even more challenging. It is nearly impossible to sustain our collections at a rate proportional to the growth in literature and the increase in prices.

However, despite the complexity of the situation we were able to purchase 693 books and an additional 257 titles were donated by school administration, faculty, staff, alumni, and publishers.

The University Library managed to maintain subscriptions to all periodicals added during the "2004-2005 year". Using book funds we continued to acquire some of them retrospectively to replace missing or never purchased issues. With limited funds and the growing cost of periodicals we have no choice but to cover the price increase by using our already-shrinking book budget.

While mostly relying on books and print journals we are embracing all the opportunities available through technological advancements. In 2007-2008 we managed to maintain subscriptions to all databases and purchased eighteen e-books.

With the assistance of the SOA graduate students, we continued to work on digitizing maps and architectural drawings, as well as on the Architectural Image Database. We revisited our standards to consistently bring them up-to-date with current practices. We added more images to support specific class assignments and are planning to complement them with images of works of art and design.

Currently we have over 12,500 images compared to the 7,677 digital images available in 2003-2004.

With a growing student body, we increased the number of Information Literacy sessions. We offer both general and course-specific instruction as well as consultations focused on particular projects.

At the beginning of the academic year, all freshmen in Architecture and Industrial Design attended two-hour sessions. More sessions were conducted upon faculty requests. We hope to be able to offer such classes to upperclassmen and students in new programs.

In addition to in-library instruction sessions we added more web-based subject guides. We recently completed two new web pages;

Resources on Sustainability
(<http://archlib.njit.edu/research/sustainability.php>)

and *Reference resources in Art and Design*.



Digital Archive of Newark Architecture

In 2007 we launched the Digital Archive of Newark Architecture (DANA), a new project undertaken to document the built environment of Newark. Using external grant funding, we acquired new materials and digitized over 130 documents both text and images. DANA provides access to, among other things, digitized maps from the *Atlas of Newark and New Jersey* (1872), electronic books, articles and records of the HABS (Historical American Buildings Survey) on Newark, a list of materials in our graphic collection, and links to related Internet resources.

Communication: We use the Library website to keep our patrons informed of new developments, services, and resources. We see it as an information hub and an access point to all materials related to their research and areas of study. We began 2007-2008 with the migration of the Architecture library website to a new server and were able to complete this task (finishing 136 web pages) in less than two months.

We continue to use the Littman Library Newsletter as another means for communication. We also work close with faculty, administration and students to learn more about their needs and be able to respond to these needs in a timely fashion.

Given the demonstrated increase in usage and the demand for our services, we believe that improvement can be achieved only through an adequate library budget with increased funding.



ELECTRONIC THESES AND DISSERTATIONS (ETD)

Researchers, students, and business people from around the world continue to find hits to our ETDs (Electronic Theses & Dissertations) through Google and Yahoo searches and then get immediate full-text content through our ETD server.

As of July 1, 2008 there were 1140 ETDs online. There were 79 ETDs that went live from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The breakdown is as follows:

28 Current thesis & dissertations

5 ILL Request

31 Retrospective

17 Web Request

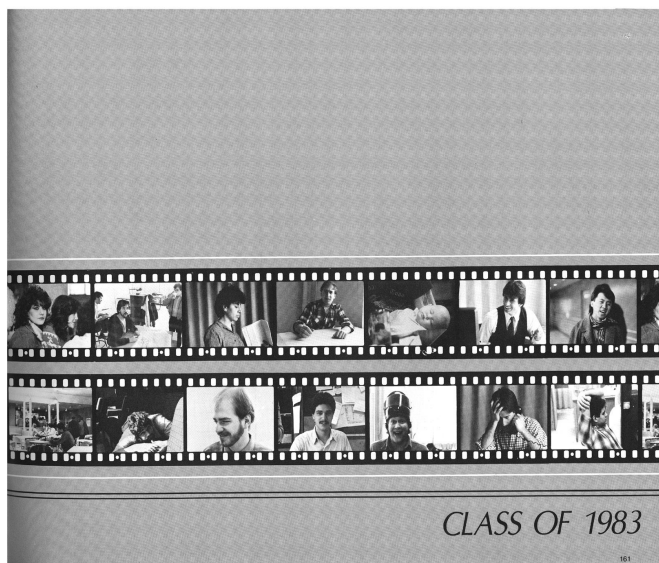
PDFs for 1126 of the ETDs were downloaded a total of 72,061 times during the academic year.

To see NJIT's ETD's go to <http://library.njit.edu/etd>

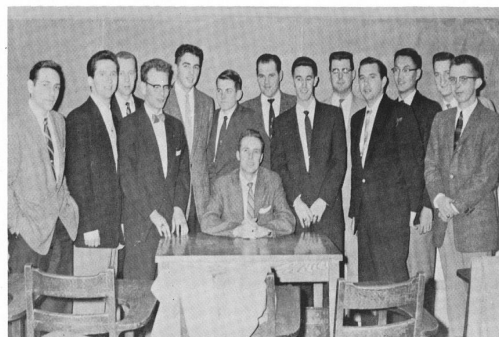
ARCHIVES

In the fall of 2007, the NJIT archives digitized the 1957 and 1982 yearbooks and placed them on the web in conjunction with the 50th and 25th anniversary of the alumni visit to the campus during reunion week. See the past yearbooks and other archival collections at: <http://library.njit.edu/archives>

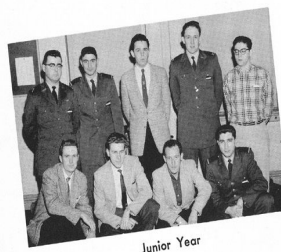
Scenes from 1982 Yearbook



Class of 1958



President	Robert Allen
Vice-President	Edward Gillen
Corresponding Secretary	Bruce DeLorenzo
Recording Secretary	Donald Stevens
Treasurer	Lee McClellan



Junior Year



Sophomore Year

STAFF TRANSITIONS

Andrea Spender joined NJIT library as our new Reference Librarian and Liaison for the Math and Physics Departments and the School of Management in January 2008. Prior to joining NJIT, Andrea was a Senior Research Analyst at McKinsey & Company and the Boston Consulting Group, two leading strategic consulting firms. She has also worked as an Information Specialist in the Mergers and Acquisitions Library at BMO Nesbitt Burns (a major Canadian investment bank) and the Wireless Development Center of Nortel Networks. Professional activities include:



M.L.S. University of Western Ontario, Canada

B.S. Biology, University of Guelph, Canada

B.S. Biology, University of Guelph, Canada

Member of the BRASS Business Reference in Academic Libraries Committee

Andrea is pursuing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Public and Nonprofit Management & Policy at NYU's Wagner school. Andrea replaced Jackie Buurma.

Aron Nemeth joined the library as full time Library Assistant II effective December 17, 2007. Aron replaces Din Garcia, who left NJIT for Rutgers University. Aron previously worked part-time as a Library Assistant for Sprague Library at Montclair State University and as an Art Gallery Assistant at Swain's of Morristown – Vokes Art Enterprises, Inc. Aron has been our part-time shelver since October 2003. Aron received his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Painting from Pratt Institute in New York. He was a recipient of the Circle Award for Academic Achievement at Pratt.



STAFF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES:

Richard Sweeney, University Librarian

Richard Sweeney continued his active participation as a member of the VALE Executive Committee. He gave Millennial presentations and conducted focus groups for RIS News and Cross Channel Retail Summit in Scottsdale Arizona, at the University of Baltimore, St.



Edward's University (TX), Sacred Heart University (CT), Problem Based Learning Conference (RI) and at the University of New Brunswick (CA). Rich also spoke at Farleigh Dickinson University on the innovation imperative and co-chaired The VALE OLS Symposium held at The College of New Jersey. He also consulted with Kutztown University and PASSHE, The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

David Scharf, Director of Reference

Peer-reviewed:

Katz, I. R., Elliot, N., Attali, Y., Scharf, D., Powers, D., Huey, H., et al. (2008). *The Assessment of Information Literacy: A Case Study*. (Document Number . RR-08-33). Princeton: Educational Testing Service.



Orzano, A. J., McInerney, C.R., Tallia, A.F., Scharf, D., & Crabtree, B.F. (February 2008). *A knowledge management model: Implications for enhancing quality in health care*. Journal of the American Society for Information Science & Technology. DOI: 10.1002/asi.20763. 59(3), 489-505.

Orzano, A. J., McInerney, C. R., Tallia, A. F., Scharf, D., & Crabtree, B. F. (2008). *Family medicine practice performance and knowledge management*. Health Care Management Review, 33(1), 21-28.

Metzger, M. & Scharf, D. (2007, June) *Portfolios and Information Literacy Assessment*. Poster session presented at the biannual meeting of the Association

for College and Research Libraries (ACRL), March 29-April 1, Baltimore, MD.

Davida's peer-reviewed article on Portfolio Assessment published in 2007 has been translated into Japanese.

Other activities: Active member of the ACRL-NJ User Ed committee. Established wiki for ACRL-NJ User Ed committee website. Doctoral student at SCILS, Rutgers focusing on information literacy assessment.

Bruce Slutsky, Technical Reference Librarian



Bruce was active in the American Chemical Society Division of Chemical Information and served on the Education Committee

For the 8th consecutive year Bruce was the Convener of the "METRO Science Librarians Special Interest Group".

Meetings included May 12, 2008-Topic: Abstracting and Information Services; February 8, 2008-Chemical Abstracts Service Webex Meeting.

Haymwantee Singh, Technical Reference Librarian



Haymwantee attended the 2007 Scopus Colloquium for Development Partners Symposium in Berlin, Germany October 17-22, 2007.

In addition, Haymwantee was a member of the VALE Cover Design Committee, and was responsible for the design competition of the brochure cover for VALE 2008

conference. She coordinated efforts with NJIT SOA colleagues and the VALE committee. Only NJIT students took part in this design competition.

Ann Hoang, Assistant University Librarian

Ann participated in an IMLS planning grant to the College of New Jersey on behalf of their state-wide consortium (VALE), examined the various options for open source library systems. Ann's involvement included planning of the "Next Generation Academic Library Systems Symposium" held on March 12, 2008.



The symposium featured expert speakers on the challenges and changes within current integrated library systems, why open source systems are gaining popularity and the type of administrative and organizational infrastructure that would be needed for VALE to implement a single-shared open library system. The symposium was well received with over 125 registered attendees. View <http://www.valenj.org/newvale/ols/symposium2008/program-schedule.shtml> for additional information.

"Strategies for Building a 2.0 Website for VALE.org" The VALE Website committee conducted a focus group to gather ideas and suggestions to increase the value and improve the use of VALE website. Web 2.0 provides a comprehensive array of applications (blogs, RSS, wikis, podcasts, tags, mash-ups and more) for presenting and collaborating on the web. The focus group identified areas of improvement concentrating on the use of social networking technologies to increase usage and awareness of the VALE website.

"Open Library Systems and NJ: From Vision to Transformation". The panel introduced the topic of open library systems, using Evergreen, a development of the Georgia public library system PINES as its main example. The panel discussed Georgia's implementation of Evergreen in its public libraries, the team's visit to Georgia in April 2007, and the issues that an open ILS present. The panels discussed the feasibility of implementing a similar system in New Jersey and discuss the kinds of issues and considerations that would need to be in place, should New Jersey libraries decide to go in this direction.

Ann also attended the ELUNA Conference in July 2008 in Long Beach, California. It was announced at the conference that Leeds Equity Partners, the largest private equity fund, based in New York has purchased Ex Libris Group from Francisco Partners. Francisco Partners purchased Ex Libris in 2006. Carl Grant was

introduced as the new President, Ex Libris North America. Ex Libris introduced the implementation of open-platform strategy to further strengthen the collaboration between Ex Libris and its customers and the next-generation framework for library services Unified Resource Management (URM). URM framework is an attempt to address the transformation from traditional models of library management to a more flexible and open environment that provides unified, streamlined support for an increasingly complex work context.

Maya Gervits, Director Architecture Library



In October 2007, Maya gave a talk and conducted a workshop on digital resources for research in art and architectural history in St. Petersburg, Russia. She also worked on an Association of Architecture Schools Librarians (AASL) task force

for NAAB team training.

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